AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A double-layer vacuum container, comprising:

an outer container;

an inner container disposed inside the outer container;

the inner container and the outer container including a vacuum space between the inner container and the outer container forming a metal double-layer container;

the outer container having a wall portion defining an outer container aperture;

the inner container having a bridging member extending therefrom and to the outer container so as to extend through the outer container aperture in a bridging manner;

the outer container supporting the bridging member with the bridging member being extending externally exposed via the outer container aperture of the wall portion to an area exterior to the outer container;

the bridging member extending from the inner container, through the outer container aperture and beyond the wall portion defining the outer container aperture with radial support thereof being provided by the outer container; [[and]]

a cover member for externally covering the wall portion of the outer container through which the bridging member is exposed and for sealing a space inside the cover member and a space between the inner container and the outer container in a vacuum state by virtue of a seal between the cover member and the outer container; and

the outer container including a supporting member having a cylindrical wall with portions provided thereon supporting the bridging member at a plurality of positions around a bridging member axis without establishing contact around an entire circumference of the bridging member.

2. (Currently Amended) The double-layer vacuum container according to claim 1, wherein:

~~the outer container includes a supporting member supporting the bridging member around a bridging member axis,~~ the supporting member [[being]] is provided inside the cover member; and

the bridging member is supported with clearance between the outer container and the bridging member defined by the outer container aperture about the bridging member axis.

3. (Original) The double-layer vacuum container according to claim 2, wherein the inner container and the outer container are bonded at lips thereof and the bridging member extends from a bottom of the inner container so as to be exposed through a bottom of the outer container to be supported thereby.

4. (Original) The double-layer vacuum container according to claim 3, wherein a heat conduction inhibition hole is provided in the middle of a heat conduction path of a member constituting the heat conduction path from the inner container to the portion where the outer container is externally exposed.

5. (Previously Presented) A double-layer vacuum container, comprising:

an outer container;

an inner container disposed inside the outer container;

the inner container and the outer container including a vacuum space between the inner container and the outer container forming a metal double-layer container;

the outer container having a wall portion defining an outer container aperture;

the inner container having a bridging member extending therefrom and to the outer container so as to extend through the outer container aperture in a bridging manner;

the outer container supporting the bridging member with the bridging member extending

externally exposed via the outer container aperture of the wall portion to an area exterior to the outer container;

a cover member for externally covering the wall portion of the outer container through which the bridging member is exposed and for sealing a space inside the cover member and a space between the inner container and the outer container in a vacuum state by virtue of a seal between the cover member and the outer container;

the outer container including a supporting member supporting the bridging member around a bridging member axis, the supporting member being provided inside the cover member;

the bridging member being supported with clearance between the outer container and the bridging member defined by the outer container aperture about the bridging member axis;

the inner container and the outer container being bonded at lips thereof and the bridging member extending from a bottom of the inner container so as to be exposed through the outer container; and

the bridging member being supported by three or more convex portions of the support member formed by plate working on a cylindrical wall thereof.

6. (Previously Presented) The double-layer vacuum container according to claim 5, wherein the support member has a plurality of leg portions formed in a circumferential direction, and is fixed to an outer face of the outer container with the plurality of leg portions.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A double-layer vacuum container comprising:

a double-layer container formed by combination of a metal inner container and a metal outer container so as to have a vacuum space therebetween;

the outer container having a wall portion defining an outer container aperture;

a bridging member extending from the inner container to the outer container in a bridging manner so as to be externally exposed through the outer container to be supported by the outer container;

the bridging member extending from the inner container, through the outer container aperture and beyond the wall portion defining the outer container aperture with radial support thereof being provided by the outer container; [[and]]

a cover member for externally covering a portion of the outer container through which the bridging member is exposed and for sealing a space inside the

cover member and a space between the inner container and the outer container in a vacuum state between the cover member and the outer container; and

the outer container including a supporting member having a cylindrical wall with portions provided thereon supporting the bridging member at a plurality of positions around a bridging member axis without establishing contact around an entire circumference of the bridging member.

9. (Currently Amended) A double-layer vacuum container including a vacuum space between an inner container and an outer container constituting a metal double-layer container, the double-layer vacuum container comprising:

the inner container having a bridging member extending to the outer container in a bridging manner so as to be supported thereby;

the outer container having a wall portion defining an outer container aperture;

the outer container supporting the bridging member extending from the inner container through a vibration-absorbing portion, the bridging member being externally exposed;

the bridging member extending from the inner container, through the outer container aperture and beyond the wall portion defining the outer container aperture with radial support thereof being provided by the outer container; [[and]]

a cover member for externally covering a portion of the outer container through which the bridging member is exposed and for sealing a space inside the cover member and a space between the inner container and the outer container in a vacuum state, between the cover member and the outer container; and

the outer container including a supporting member as the vibration absorbing portion, the supporting member having a cylindrical wall with portions provided thereon supporting the bridging member at a plurality of positions around a bridging member axis without establishing contact around an entire circumference of the bridging member.

10. (Currently Amended) A double-layer vacuum container including a vacuum space between an inner container and an outer container constituting a metal double-layer container, the double-layer vacuum container comprising:

the inner container having a bridging member extending to the outer container in a bridging manner so as to be supported thereby;

the outer container having a wall portion defining an outer container aperture;

the outer container supporting the bridging member extending from the inner container through a vibration-absorbing portion, the bridging member being externally exposed;

the bridging member extending from the inner container, through the outer container aperture and beyond the wall portion defining the outer container aperture with radial support thereof being provided by the outer container; [[and]]

a cover member for externally covering a portion of the outer container through which the bridging member is exposed, a space inside the cover member being a vacuum space; and

the outer container including a supporting member as the vibration absorbing portion, the supporting member having a cylindrical wall with portions provided thereon supporting the bridging member at a plurality of positions around a bridging member axis without establishing contact around an entire circumference of the bridging member.

11. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A double-layer vacuum container ~~according to claim 3, wherein~~ . comprising:

an outer container;

an inner container disposed inside the outer container;

the inner container and the outer container including a vacuum space between the inner container and the outer container forming a metal double-layer container;

the outer container having a wall portion defining an outer container aperture;

the inner container having a bridging member extending therefrom and to the outer container so as to extend through the outer container aperture in a bridging manner;

the outer container supporting the bridging member with the bridging member being extending

externally exposed via the outer container aperture of the wall portion to an area exterior to the outer container;

the bridging member extending from the inner container, through the outer container aperture and beyond the wall portion defining the outer container aperture with radial support thereof being provided by the outer container;

a cover member for externally covering the wall portion of the outer container through which the bridging member is exposed and for sealing a space inside the cover member and a space between the inner container and the outer container in a vacuum state by virtue of a seal between the cover member and the outer container;

wherein the inner container and the outer container are bonded at lips thereof, the bridging member extends from a bottom of the inner container so as to be exposed through a bottom of the outer container to be supported thereby, and

the bridging member is supported by three or more convex portions of the support member formed by plate working on a cylindrical wall thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) The double-layer vacuum container according to claim 11, wherein the support member has a plurality of leg portions formed in a circumferential direction, and is fixed to the wall portion of the outer container with the plurality of leg portions.